

Block Island Tourism Council

Minutes

March 22, 2016

11am Town Hall

Present: Steve, Sven, John, Julie, Brad, Zena, and Jessica.

Absent: Logan

Meeting called to order at 11:15 am by Zena

Public Comment: None

Director's Report:

- **Correspondence:**

- o Letter of funding request for Blues on the Beach 2016. Will be put on next agenda according to BITC procedures of funding request.

- **Hotel Tax: January not in yet.**

- **RIAC Update: Jessica let the board know that the meeting she had organized with RIAC on BI for March 24th was moved to April 27th. This is a follow up to the last meeting and a chance to meet the interim CEO of RIAC.**

- **Sven asked about the State Campaign. Jessica reported that they were still waiting on a date from the State for when the campaign would be released.**

Approve Minutes:

March 8, 2016: Zena made a motion to approve and Brad seconded.

All approved.

Old Business:

A) None

New Business:

A) Act on Town request to consider a review of the position stated in the letter to Town Council, dated September 11, 2013 re: Quonset Ferry –

a. Town Manager Nancy Dodge was present to explain that the letter the Tourism Council sent to the Town Council in September of 2013 was being used as evidence in the PUC hearing as support, when the Town Council is against. She asked what the Tourism Council's intent of the letter was and if they cared to clarify their intent of that letter.

b. Zena said that since she recused herself when the council wrote the original letter she would recuse again. She also asked Steve if he felt he should recuse himself at this point due to family involvement. Steve felt that he did not need to recuse himself.

c. John expressed frustration that we had a letter from 3 years ago in front of us and were just being asked to clarify. He would have liked to have more time to get information.

d. There seemed to be a lack of understanding as to what exactly Mr. Donadio was proposing with the proposed ferry. The board felt they knew no more now than they did back in 2013. Steve suggested having Mr. Donadio come to a meeting and present his plans. The board thought this was a good idea.

e. After a lengthy discussion Brad made a motion to send a letter to the Town Council clarifying that the intent of the letter sent on

September 11, 2013, re: the proposed Quonset ferry, was an opinion sent to the Town Council and was not intended to be an endorsement to the PUC. Sven seconded. Julie and John voted yes. No opposed. Zena and Steve recused.

B) Budget FY 16/17 – Jessica and Julie presented the proposed budget. (At this point in the meeting Steve needed to catch the boat and left the meeting). Jessica explained that because of the expected cuts to the budget they kept almost the exact budget as 15/16, with one exception. Because there had been no request from the Chamber of Commerce as of this March 22nd meeting that line was left blank and the \$20,000 was shifted into Ad Space and Personnel, as there has been interest in hiring another person for the office.

a. John made a motion to accept the Proposed Budget FY 16/17. Brad seconded and all approved.

C) Discuss Job Description for Assistant – Jessica explained that the Director Review Committee had asked for the last two years for Jessica to write up a Job Description for an assistant. She included a draft in the packets. The board wanted more time to discuss this and didn't feel there was time to take action at this point. It will be continued on a later agenda.

Next Meeting is April 12 at 9am.

Accounts Payable:

Brad made a motion to pay the bills. Julie seconded and all approved.

12:35: Zena made a motion to adjourn. Brad seconded. All approved.

Date Accepted: April 12, 2016

Jessica Willi

Executive Director

Block Island Tourism Council